

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, EEC, XA

SUBJ: EC POLICY RE LDCS -- COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON WISHES TO VISIT
WASHINGTON IN AUGUST

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 3674; B) EC BRUSSELS 3410; C) EC BRUSSELS
2996; D) OUAGADOUGOU 1095

1. SUMMARY. CLAUDE CHEYSSON, WHO RECENTLY SUCCEEDED DENIAU AS
EC COMMISSIONER FOR LDC QUESTIONS, WISHES TO VISIT WASHINGTON
SOMETIME IN AUGUST FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON OUR RESPECTIVE
POLICIES TOWARD LDCS. SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TIMELY
SINCE IT WOULD COME AFTER THE LATE-JULY "PRE-NEGOTIATION"
CONFERENCE WITH THE YAOUNDE COUNTRIES AND THE COMMONWEALTH
ASSOCIABLES BUT PRECEDE THE OPENING OF FORMAL EC NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THESE NATIONS. CHEYSSON WISHES TO IMPROVE US/EC COOPERATION
ON LDCS AND NARROW DIFFERENCES WHERE POSSIBLE. ACTION REQUESTED:
EARLY ADVICE AS TO WHETHER WASHINGTON IS AGREEABLE TO SUCH A VISIT
AND SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS REGARDING DATES. END SUMMARY.

2. EC COMMISSION MEMBER CHEYSSON, PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR LDC
QUESTIONS, HAS APPROACHED AMBASSADOR GREENWALD TO SAY THAT HE
WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN AUGUST FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS.
HIS PURPOSE IS TO INITIATE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH KEY PEOPLE IN
THE US GOVERNMENT ABOUT US AND COMMUNITY POLICIES AND ATTITUDES
TOWARD RELATIONS WITH LDCS. WITHIN THIS GENERAL FRAMEWORK,
TALKS WOULD COVER SUCH TOPICS AS: TRADE AND COMMODITY ASPECTS
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OF EC ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS; GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SCHEMES;

AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

3. WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WITH CHEYSSON IN AUGUST WOULD SEEM PARTICULARLY TIMELY FROM SEVERAL STANDPOINTS. CHEYSSON HAS BEEN IN HIS JOB ONLY A FEW MONTHS. BROAD-RANGING AND INFORMAL EXCHANGES AT THIS EARLY STAGE WOULD PROVIDE A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO COVER US/EC DIFFERENCES (E.G. ON PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS) IN THE WIDE CONTEXT OF OVERALL POLICIES RE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, AN AUGUST VISIT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO GIVE CHEYSSON OUR VIEWS AND TO HEAR ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION SINCE IT WOULD FOLLOW THE JULY 23-24 EC COUNCIL MEETING AND THE JULY 25-26 "PRE-NEGOTIATING" CONFERENCE WITH THE AFRICANS BUT PRECEDE OPENING OF THE FORMAL ASSOCIATION NEGOTIATIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

4. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS B AND C, CHEYSSON IS EAGER TO TRY TO WORK WITH US AUTHORITIES IN IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF US AND EC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, NARROWING DIFFERENCES AND INCREASING COOPERATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY ADVICE AS TO A) WASHINGTON REACTION TO CHEYSSON'S PROPOSAL FOR A VISIT IN AUGUST AND B) IF POSITIVE, SPECIFIC DATES WHICH WE CAN SUGGEST TO HIM.

GREENWALD

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